

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

20/
28 FEB. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Soviets change tactics in
air corridor confrontation

Yesterday they began filing specific flight plans for each of their aircraft instead of making blanket reservations of corridor air space. These plans, involving eight flights in the southern corridor this afternoon (between 0935 and 1330 EST), are coupled with vague warnings that "it will be a bit...difficult" for Western aircraft to pass through the area at the western entrance of the corridor. We think the Soviets hope that seeming adherence to standard Western practices in the Air Safety Center will make it more difficult for us to challenge their activities. No special Western flights have been scheduled for the given times.

2. More rumblings from North
Vietnam

Hanoi has called establishment of the new US command in Saigon a "most serious act of military aggression" threatening the security of North Vietnam. Similar charges preceded their 1960 moves into Laos, although this time their announcement was not accompanied with the threat "not to remain inactive." This statement is probably no more than another move in North Vietnam's continuing efforts to arouse international apprehensions and thus exert a restraining influence on the US.

3. Laos

a) The first mass flight of Soviet transports from the USSR to Hanoi since January 1961 is now in progress, involving ten aircraft.

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c) In Laos, the political and military situations remain unchanged, with Phoumi and Souvanna scheduled to renew talks tomorrow at Vientiane. Phoumi seems more tractable, but there is no evidence that he has backed away from previous demands.

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4. Communist China considering purchase of US grain

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NOTES

- A. [redacted] military plotting against the Inonu government in Turkey. In an attempt to hold military support Inonu made a radio address last Sunday reaffirming the legitimacy of the May 1960 coup. 50X1
- B. Adenauer has assured Ambassador Dowling that he has no desire for West Germany to have direct talks with the Soviets.
- C. De Gaulle's reply to Khrushchev's invitation to an 18-nation disarmament conference appears simply to repeat previously stated French positions.
- D. The Attorney General's last conversation with Sukarno on West New Guinea was largely taken up with Indonesian efforts to find a formula for negotiations which would guarantee the Indonesians what they want without appearing to set preconditions.
- E. Despite continued dramatic statements for the press, Syrian excitement is dying down over the rumored diversion of Jordan River waters by Israel, which the Israelis will not be in a position to do for some time yet.
- F. King Saud, in Madrid, is again being urged to return home at once. [redacted] 50X1
- G. We have reports of military activity in the Quito area, the purpose of which is not clear. Given the instability of Arosemena's position some sort of shakeup may be in the making.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE